

THE BILLOP MYSTERY.

BY JULIAN HAWTHORNE.
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CHAPTER XI.

Few houses were better adapted for the accommodation of ghosts than the old Billop homestead. The two mighty trees cast a shadow over it even at noon-day; and its cavernous cellar and Dædalian garret seemed ideal stamping grounds for spectres. The activity on which the house stood—the site had been chosen with an eye of desirability in Indian times—slipped gently down in front but fell away quite abruptly behind and at the sides. On the right side, almost beneath the roots of the butternut tree, a small natural cave entered the rocky soil; it had been artificially enlarged so as to shelter the farm wagons and tools when the barn was overflowed of produce. The barn stood further down the slope, near the meadow, and was itself delightfully mysterious and scary place; but the cave and the barn had been highly prized by generations of Billop children, as well as by their mothers when, in rainy weather, they wanted to have some peace in the house. "May we play in the barn, or the cave, mother?" was a request seldom refused. Sometimes, no doubt, the children played ghosts, till they were ready to expire with delightful creeps and horrors, and thus confirmed among themselves the weird legends which came down from generation to generation.

Thus, as the newspaper would say, created a visible impression favorable to the prisoner. Mr. Corvin, after a pause, observed that nobody would be more pleased than himself if Tom Linton succeeded in establishing his innocence; at the same time, until the facts before them were satisfactorily explained, justice to all parties required that the prisoner be kept in custody. He had no doubt Mr. Higgins would make him very comfortable. Still, stealing was stealing and the law was bound to take action according to the evidence brought before it.

Then said the unlucky Tom, with a flash in his eye, "If you was to tell how you got your money, may be you'd be going to goal for stealing 'stead of me!"

That settled the question of bail; the magistrates said he thought it would be best to let Mr. Higgins retain charge of the prisoner for the present. In fact, everybody except Tom was more or less afraid of Lawyer Corvin; and really, it was difficult to see how Tom could be otherwise than guilty.

Accordingly, the worthy constable conveyed Tom to the village lock-up, which was a room in the distanced water-mill below the falls. Fenbrook was a law-abiding community, and the lock-up was empty three hundred and fifty days in the year; but this night it happened to contain another boy, a young tramp, who had been caught a while before in somebody's hen-house, and who was waiting transference to the house of correction in the neighboring town.

It was an error of judgment on Mr. Higgins' part to put the two boys together. One boy is slippery enough; but there is no place that two boys, working together, cannot get out of. It may be that Mr. Higgins thought of this, but chose not to act upon the knowledge.

But, as people afterwards said, if he meant to give Tom a chance, he only succeeded in fixing his doom.

The next morning, when the constable opened the door to give his prisoners their breakfast, he found a hole in the roof hardly big enough for a cat to get through, *big as boy's*.

The tramp, whom nobody was concerned about, seems to have got clear off; why he could not have been drowned instead of Tom? It is to be feared that Nancy, in the anguish of her heart, asked the Lord of Heaven and earth that question.

The body, almost unrecognizable save by the clothes, was found ten days later. The boy had tried to swim the river, probably intending to get down to the sea-coast, and perhaps ship as a cabin-boy in some outward-bound vessel. It was the spring of the year, and a late flood had swollen the stream and carried away the bridge. Tom was a stout swimmer; but a floating tree may have overwhelmed him; at any rate he was gone.

The whole village turned out for the funeral. They felt, somehow, responsible for poor Tom's death. Lawyer Corvin was there, too, looking properly downcast. But when, at the grave, Nancy lifted her tear-stained face and fixed her eyes, which always were so kindly, upon him, he turned pale and got behind the others, and slipped away. He could not meet that look, and yet, what had he done that anyone in his place could have helped doing?

Nancy and little Nellie lived alone in the old house, and things went ill with them. But at last, when Nellie was about eleven years old, a mysterious event happened.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

SELF-DENIAL is the one thing most difficult to cultivate and always hard to practice, especially when there are good things sent within reach. But there is no self-denial necessary if you take Simmon's Liver Regulator. It promotes digestion, prevents dyspepsia, and a dose after a hearty meal of delicacies will prevent any discomfort. It's the best good-night today.

A Quarter Century Test.

For a quarter of a century Dr. King's New Discovery has been tested, and the millions who have received benefit from it testify to its wonderful curative powers in all diseases of Throat, Chest and Lungs. A remedy that has stood the test so long and that has given so universal satisfaction is no experiment.

Each bottle is positively guaranteed to give relief, or the money will be refunded. It is admitted to be the most reliable for Coughs and Colds.

Trial bottles free at Logan Drug Co., a drug store. Large size \$6c, and \$100. 6c.

Dr. Miles' Pain Pill stops Headache.

SOMAET and **Bowel Complaints** are best relieved by the timely use of Dr. Wirt's Colic and Chorea Cure. Insist on having this preparation. Don't take any other. Logan Drug Co., Wheeling, W. Va., B. F. Peabody, Bonwood, and Bowie & Co., Bridgeport, O.

It meant, also, that Tom had been arrested for the robbery. His jackknife had been found on the ledge of the back window, which had been forced. The tassel which he had made the day before was remembered. But all this and more would have weighed nothing, had not an overwhelming piece of evidence come to light in Tom's pockets; nothing less than a wad of bank-notes which Lawyer Corvin proved he had drawn out of the bank the morning previous; as well as several coins and a gold ring, likewise his property. What could be opposed to such testimony as this?

He took out a bold face on the matter; he admitted that he had been out a good part of the night, but he said he had been laying traps for woodchucks. He could not explain about his knife, except that he had lost it some days before. As to the terrible contents of his pockets, he vehemently professed to know nothing about it; but he was quite sure he had never been near Lawyer Corvin's. It was but a poor defense, and it was evident that his many friends were disappointed. As Tom looked round the little room in which the preliminary examination was held, there were no eyes to meet his own with encouragement and faith. Yet his self-conceit would not have faltered but for a sound of voices, sobbing that reached his ears. He looked round, and there was Nancy.

"I'm darling good boy," she cried out. "I know you didn't do it; an angel would sit right there and say you did! If they send you to prison, I'll go too."

Lightning Hot Drops—What a Funny Name!

Very True, but it Kills All Pain.

Sold Everywhere. Every Day—Without Relief, There is No Pain!

EXPLAINED.

Confidence in Their Product Led the Shakers to Make an Unusual Offer.

People of this day and generation are not disposed to give things away. When therefore the Mount Lebanon Shakers recently stated that anyone could get a bottle of Digestive Cordial by calling in person at their New York office, it excited a great deal of talk.

One of the leading dailies of the metropolis sent a reporter to find out what was meant. It developed that the preparation in question has proven beneficial in so large a majority of cases that nine-tenths of the people who are sufficiently anxious to call for a sample, find so much relief to call that they continue the product's use and tell their friends about it. As a result very large demand has been created.

The Shakers have a long record of success as inventors and their various medicinal products have always enjoyed a high reputation. The Digestive Cordial is not only nourishing in itself, but it digests other foods when taken as directed.

Sleepless nights, spots before the eyes and a sense of heaviness after eating, loss of weight and general weakness are among the common symptoms of indigestion which it promptly relieves, and it is gratifying to know that such a positive and harmless remedy as the Digestive Cordial should have at last been devised.

In order to find whether the shaker Digestive Cordial is adapted to your case try a small bottle. Its effect is immediate. For sale by nearly all druggists.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

The Features of the Money and Stock Markets.

New York, Sept. 22.—Money on call easy at 1½ per cent.; last loan 1½ per cent.; closed at 1½ per cent. Prime mercantile paper 1½ per cent.; sterling exchange weak at \$1 82¢ 83¢; silver certificates flat 1½¢.

The course of speculation to-day was with a few exceptions toward a higher range of prices, the upward tendency being almost uninterrupted. The volume of business was fairly large, but it was irregularly distributed, and the industries and professions were not yet definitely engaged in the market. The upward movement of gold is over, but temporarily, and the sales factors report of earnings of most of the railroad companies undoubtedly had considerable influence in its market. The endorser tended to the sterling exchange market in the last few days took many people by surprise, and some rumors of a general increase of the sterling market, however, were not confirmed. These reports so far as can be learned, have no foundation in fact, and well informed bankers declare that the weaker tendency of exchange is entirely natural and that there is no present necessity for a sterling loan. The market opened strong and closed moderately steady.

The advance estimates show the first hour and oil sales to realize profits Tennessee coal 1½ and Colorado 1½ per cent.

The force of downward movement was spent about mid-day, and rallies were recorded in a number of instances. Tobacco gained 2½¢; sugar 2 per cent. The advances in price were offset by the amount of gain which was ascribed to the advance of the market value of the bonds.

The daily report of earnings of most of the railroads shows sugar 2½¢, the Graingers 2½¢ and tobacco 2½ per cent.

Trading in bonds was moderate, in volume and in value, due to the speculation. The sales of 1,000,000 were to the credit of the market.

The total sales of stocks to-day were 200,555 shares.

Government bonds steady and new 4% coupon 4 per cent. higher.

State bonds inactive.

Railroad bonds strong.

BONDS AND STOCK QUOTATIONS—CLOSED DAY.

New U. S. 4s rec'd. 12½ Missouri Pacific.... 29½
New U. S. 5s comp. 12½ National Carriage.... 8½
U. S. 6s rec'd. 10½ National Biscuit.... 10½
U. S. 7s rec'd. 11½ New Jersey Central.... 11½
U. S. 8s comp. 11½ Norfolk & Western.... 14½
U. S. 9s rec'd. 12½ Northern Pacific.... 9½
Pacific 2s of '93.... 12½ North Western.... 13½
Albion.... 12½ North Western.... 13½
Adams Express.... 12½ New York Central.... 12½
New York Central.... 12½ New York Central.... 12½
Baltimore & Ohio.... 12½ New Eng.... 12½
Central Pacific.... 12½ Oregon Imperial.... 6
Central Pacific.... 12½ Oregon Nav.... 22
Chicago & Milwaukee.... 12½ Pacific Mail.... 22½
Chicago & Milwaukee.... 12½ Pittsburgh.... 20
Chi. Bur. & Quincy.... 12½ St. Louis & San Fran.... 12½
Chicago & Milwaukee.... 12½ St. Paul & Minn.... 12½
Chi. & Alton.... 12½ St. Paul & Minn.... 12½
Chi. & Alton.... 12½ St. Paul & Minn.... 12½
Chi. & Alton.... 12½ St. Paul & Minn.... 12½
Chi. & Alton.... 12½ Union Pacific.... 15½
Illinois Central.... 12½ U. S. Express.... 9½
Kan. & Tex. rec'd. 12½ W. S. 12 & P.... 9½
Lake Erie & West.... 12½ W. & M. rec'd. 12½
do preferred.... 12½ W. & M. rec'd. 12½
West. & Southern.... 12½ Western Union.... 9½
West. & Southern.... 12½ Wheeling & L. E.... 15½
Louisville & Nash.... 12½ do preferred.... 12½
Michigan Central.... 12½ General Electric.... 29½

BROADSHEET AND PROVISIONS.

Chicago—Wheat acted rather erratic to-day. It was weak at the opening, then firm, then weak again until just about noon, when it recovered the ground it had lost. There was no apparent cause for the sudden bushwhacks further than the buying by the bulls, which was started by the very much smaller increase in the wheat supply than had been looked for, and the continuation of the short sellers in their effort to end their top position.

Corn and oats were easier, and January provisions were a trifle higher.

Flour steady.

Wheat—Cash No. 2 spring 57½ 48½¢
No. 3 spring 57½ 48½¢ September 37½ 48½¢
October 37½ 48½¢ December 57½ 48½¢
January 57½ 48½¢

Oats—Cash No. 2, 15½¢; No. 2 white 22¢; No. 3 white 22½¢; No. 3 white 22½¢ October 18½ 20½¢; November 18½ 20½¢; December 18½ 20½¢; January 18½ 20½¢

do salled shoulders 62½¢; short clear 61½¢

do salled hams 62½¢

do salled bacon 62½¢

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